

BTNF PLAN REVISION UPDATE

January 2008

While work continues at the national level to address the requirements of the March 30, 2007, court injunction on implementation of the 2005 Planning Rule, here on the Bridger-Teton, the Forest Plan Revision Team and its partners have been busy with various “rule-neutral” tasks associated with planning, including:

- A Forest-wide evaluation of current conditions (building on the results of our Need for Change workshops with the public in November 2006 and March 2007);
- The University of Wyoming's economic profile of the BTNF;
- Colorado State University's survey of Forest-related values in the communities around the BTNF;

The products of these efforts to evaluate current conditions and trends will soon be ready to share in draft form. With this updated information, we are now ready to examine what those conditions and trends might mean for changes in management on the ground, and to consider some of the trade-offs those changes could entail.

To achieve this, the Plan Revision Team will be working with Ranger District specialists, the public, and other governmental entities over the next few months to develop mapped “scenarios” that envision possible solutions to the Need for Change, and how they might fit together throughout the Forest. The purpose of these scenarios will be to provide a conceptual starting point for developing a Proposed Revised Plan.

This effort will include a Government Cooperators’ Group meeting in late February and several public workshops in March and April (details, dates and locations TBA) where we'll develop and refine those scenarios, discuss some of the potential compatibilities and trade-offs that emerge, and try to figure out some creative solutions together. By the end of February we also expect to roll out a new website, which uses interactive mapping tools and comment forms to provide remote stakeholders an opportunity to explore scenarios, devise creative solutions, and share them with one another and the Plan Revision Team.

Working together with the public and our Government Cooperators since 2005, we have come a long way toward understanding our desired conditions, our current conditions, and the difference between the two. Now that we’ve gained that understanding, we can start considering what a strategy for addressing that difference might entail. We hope all interested parties will join us in this collaborative learning effort.

For further information please contact Rick Fox, Forest Planner, at (307) 739-5563.